

Secondary entry #6: San Clemente High School



Clemente Chronicle



SWING: Wade batting for The Strikers. Picture: Aneka Zerbes

Softball ace gets ready to strike again

By DAISY EKERT, JENNA MAXWELL, TAYLOR WALTON and ANEKA ZERBES

WADE Faulkner, a 14-year-old student attending San Clemente High School, is trialling for the under-17 State men's softball team at Blacktown in October this year.

Around 70 people try out from across the state, but there are only 16 spots on the team.

Wade is very passionate about his sport and would love to make the state team.

"I would really enjoy having a career of softball when I am older - I am doing all I can to ensure my dream comes true," he said.

Wade currently plays for the Newcastle District Softball Association in Mayfield. He plays now for three different levels: under-15, under-18 and first grade.

Wade has been playing softball since he was five. He was greatly influenced by his father and uncle, who also played softball when they were younger.

As well as playing against state and international teams, he has represented many clubs and associations.

When asked what he was looking forward to in try-outs, he said: "Showcasing my skills and hopefully making the team."

Wade is continuing to play in local competitions and training hard in preparation for his try-out.

By SARAH HERNON, MIRANDA HILL, LAURA IRWIN and MADELINE KEMBREY

THE Ronald McDonald House, located on the grounds of the John Hunter Hospital, has been assisting families since 1991.

It provides accommodation and programs for families with children undergoing treatment.

At the house they can escape the clinical hospital environment and spend quality time together.

Eighteen families can be accommodated for as long as their child is in hospital.

The house contains many of the facilities that are typical in a family home, providing a reassuring environment where a parent can continue their day-to-day life.

Most people staying at Ronald McDonald House come from regional NSW, some from other states, with the furthest away a little boy from Sri Lanka.

Within the John Hunter Hospital there is also a family room, providing a range of practical and comforting resources for the 10,000 people who access the room each year.

Newcastle Ronald McDonald House manager, Alison Wellings, comes into contact with many different families throughout her job.

"When you come into a job like this, you feel like you're going to



DEDICATED: Volunteer Julie Parsons with the much-loved clown mascot outside Ronald McDonald House. Picture: Laura Irwin

The Ronald McDonald House Charities is a nationwide organisation that supports families of children suffering from diseases and various illnesses. About 100,000 Australian families have children affected by serious illnesses, and so the house provides a diverse range of programs that offer essential support and assistance.

The house aims to aid families during the stress and strain that is upon them while they have a child undergoing treatment.

The Ronald McDonald House is an individual organisation supported by McDonald's franchises and is purely run from the donations of local associations and the general public.

Megan Irwin, a parent of a sick child said: "When your own child becomes seriously ill, it is reassuring to know that there is an organisation such as Ronald McDonald House there to lend a helping hand."

help the families, but actually they teach me things," Ms Wellings said.

She is responsible for the overall operation of the house, and is assisted by 250 volunteers and additional staff 24 hours a day.

Julie Parsons, a volunteer at Ronald McDonald House for 18 years, said she loves the work.

"I love doing this to help others. Now my own children are grown up, I want to help other families."

CONFIDENT: Isaac Shaw practises for his performance at Hunter Stadium. Picture: Alice Pye



Singing star shines on NRL field

By KATE BRATFIELD, MATILDA LAVIS and ALICE PYE

ON March 31, the Newcastle Knights played the Canberra Raiders at Hunter Stadium.

Isaac Shaw, a year 7 student from San Clemente High School, was given the honour of singing the national anthem before the game.

Isaac was informed about

the part from his singing teacher, and she thought it would be a great chance for Isaac to gain experience.

He went to the audition and participated intensely for two days against many others before being told he was successful.

Rather than suffering from nerves, Isaac had a burst of confidence: "I was very excited to perform even though there was over 20,000

people watching me, but I had lots of friends and family to support me."

"I felt my performance went really well on the night... It was exhilarating!"

After the performance Isaac had the opportunity to meet the Knights and coach Wayne Bennett, who congratulated him and said he had never heard the anthem sung as well as Isaac had.

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